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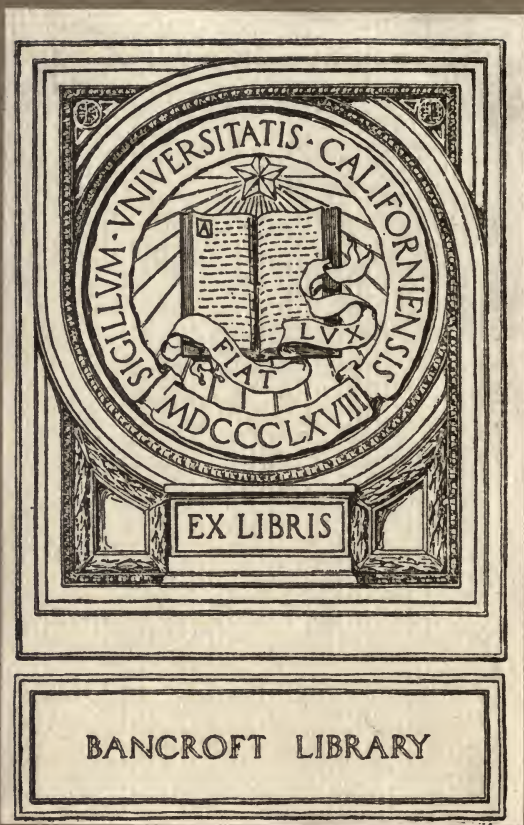
AMERICAN  
ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY



HANDBOOK  
OF  
INFORMATION

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# AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



HANDBOOK  
OF  
INFORMATION

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## HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

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THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, which in 1912 will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary, exists to-day as one of the oldest national institutions in the country. In October, 1812, Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, Mass., with five associates, petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to establish a society whose chief object should be the collecting and preserving the materials for a study of American history and antiquities. It was the expressed intention of the founders to form a society which should be "truly beneficial, not only to the present, but particularly to future generations — a society not confined to local purposes, not intended for the particular advantage of any one State or section of the Union, or for the benefit of a few individuals — one whose members may be found in every part of our western continent and its adjacent islands, and who are citizens of all parts of this quarter of the world."

On October 24, 1812, the Society was incorporated. It was decided that beyond the reason of the residence of the founder, it was best to locate the building of the Society at an inland rather than a coast town. As Thomas says, "For the better preservation from the destruction so often experienced in large towns and cities by fire, as well as from the ravages of an enemy, to which seaports in particular are so much exposed in time of war, it is universally agreed that for a place of deposit for articles intended to be preserved for ages, and of which many, if destroyed or carried away, could never be replaced by others of the like kind, an inland situation is to be preferred; this consideration alone was judged sufficient for placing the Library and Museum of this Society forty miles distant from the nearest branch of the sea, in the town of Worcester, Massachusetts."

The Society had exceptional opportunities to acquire material

at the outset through the munificence of its founder. Isaiah Thomas is justly entitled to rank with the most liberal-minded men of his period. His journalistic activity during his early manhood had placed his name high in the lists of Revolutionary patriots, his eminence as a printer had earned him the sobriquet of the "Baskerville of America," his two-volume "History of Printing in America" was a work of exceptional scholarship and importance, and his learning, broad-mindedness, and philanthropy were constantly in evidence. Familiarity with the work of similar institutions in Europe had long made him desirous of establishing in this country a society which should have for its great aim the collecting and preserving of the materials of our national history. And when the time came for the fruition of his plans, he gave liberally both money and books that the Society might have a beginning worthy of its name.

The first meeting of the Society was held at the Exchange Coffee House in Boston, November 19, 1812, when organization was effected with Mr. Thomas as President. At the following meeting in February, other officers were chosen and the announcement was made of the gift of the President's own library, one of the largest private collections of Americana then existing in the country. Immediately a call was made for gifts. "Among the articles of deposit," reads the 1813 report, "books of every description, including pamphlets and magazines, especially those which were early printed either in South or in North America; files of Newspapers of former times, or of the present day, are particularly desirable — as are specimens, with written accounts respecting them, of fossils, handicrafts of the Aborigines, etc.; manuscripts, ancient and modern, on interesting subjects, particularly those which give accounts of remarkable events, discoveries, or the description of any part of the continent, or the islands in the American seas; maps, charts, etc."

The results of such an appeal were soon apparent. The Bentley collection, the library of the Mathers, and other gifts of importance so increased the Library that by 1820 it amounted to more than 5000 volumes. Up to this date it had been kept in the President's mansion. In the year 1820, through the generosity of Mr. Thomas, a building was erected, "highly ornamental as a



publick edifice, and well calculated to give respectability and permanency to the Institution." It is now standing, though in a dilapidated condition, on its original site on Summer Street.

Isaiah Thomas died on April 4, 1831. To the time of his death he manifested a keen desire to work in behalf of the Society. By the terms of his will he gave it funds for various purposes amounting to twenty-four thousand dollars. His entire gifts, including books, land, building, and funds, amounted to about fifty thousand dollars.

The most significant event in the history of the Society, following Mr. Thomas's death, was the appointment of Christopher Columbus Baldwin as permanent Librarian in 1832. To scarcely anyone aside from the founder does the Society owe so much in its early days. Possessing true antiquarian tastes, gifted with the ability to elicit the interest of others, and imbued with a zeal that was extraordinary, he gave three all too short years to the upbuilding of the Library. He wrote letters to authors prominent and obscure, and when that failed, made personal appeals. His Diary, a document of unusual interest throughout, shows in numerous entries his peculiar qualifications for his position. In 1834 Thomas Wallcut of Boston presented to the Society his collection of pamphlets and newspapers. Its acquisition is graphically told by Baldwin. Under date of August 2, 1834, he says: "I called on Mr. Wallcut this morning, and he went with me to India Street, where the pamphlets, etc., of his uncle were deposited. They were in the fourth story of an oil store, where they had been placed about four months ago. They were put in ancient trunks, bureaus, and chests, baskets, tea chests and old drawers, and presented a very odd appearance. The extent of them was altogether beyond my expectations. I went immediately to work to putting them in order for transporting to Worcester. Every thing was covered with venerable dust, and as I was under a slated roof and the thermometer at ninety-three, I had a pretty hot time of it. Nothing but a love of such work could inspire any man to labor in such a place. The value of the rarities I found, however, soon made me forget the heat, and I have never seen such happy moments. Every thing I opened discovered to my eyes some unexpected treasure. Great numbers of the productions of our early authors were

turned up at every turn. I could hardly persuade myself that it was not all a dream, and I applied myself with all industry to packing, lest capricious fortune should snatch something from my hands." His inopportune death in August, 1835, at the very outset of a promising career, was a great blow to the Society whose affairs he was administering with such signal ability.

During Baldwin's incumbency the building of the Society had been enlarged. In 1832, two wings, each 25 by 20 feet, were erected, thus providing much needed room. The Council Report of 1833 speaks of the building as now "convenient for the purposes of appropriation, neat and elegant in appearance, alike useful for the Society and ornamental to the town."

Scarcely twenty years passed before this building was outgrown. In 1838 Samuel Foster Haven was appointed Librarian of the Society, and during the incumbency of this careful administrator and distinguished scholar the collection experienced rapid growth. In 1853, a new building, 50 by 80 feet, of brick with freestone trimmings, designed by Thomas A. Tefft, was erected at a cost of \$18,000. Enlarged in 1877 by an addition of 51 by 46 feet, at a cost of \$12,700, it lasted half a century before it was outgrown.

In 1854 Stephen Salisbury, whose interest in the Society had been previously evidenced by his gift of the land upon which the building stood, was chosen President of the Society. For thirty years he served in this office, advancing the interests of the Society by the performance of many duties and by frequent gifts to its funds. A student as well as a man of affairs, he administered the concerns of the institution with wisdom and a thorough regard for the future.

During the administration of Stephen Salisbury the Library had greatly increased. From a collection of 23,000 volumes in 1854 it had become a library of 80,000 volumes in 1884. In common with other New England institutions it had benefited largely by the dispersal of the Brinley and Cooke libraries. Special funds were established to enable it to add systematically to its various collections. Under these conditions of present and prospective prosperity, it was fortunate for the Society that it could enlist the services of so able a patron as Stephen Salisbury, Jr. In 1887, three years after his father's death, he was chosen President of the

Society, and remained in office until his death in 1905. Throughout these eighteen years he carried out the ideals set by his father, familiarizing himself with all the details of the work of the Society, and recording his faith in its future by the generous bequest of his private library, a portion of his real estate and the sum of \$200,000. Next to its founder, the Society owes to no one so deep a debt of gratitude.

The past three years have been eventful in the history of the Society. With increased funds the institution immediately entered upon an enlarged field of usefulness. Waldo Lincoln of Worcester, whose family and ancestral ties connected him in every way with the Society, was chosen President in 1907. Endowed with liberal views and a broad mind, he has sought from the first to fulfill the thought expressed in one of the early Reports of the Society that "our Institution, in all its objects and concerns, is intended and considered as *National*." In his desire to broaden the scope of the printed publications, to maintain a high standard of papers read before the Society, to demand increased care in the election of new members, to make known the valuable manuscript material in the Library, to specialize in the purchasing of books along those lines where the Library is strong, to provide that the new building to be erected shall be constructed with an eye far into the future — in all these things, he has laid the foundations of increased prosperity and growth.

#### THE LIBRARY.

The library of the Antiquarian Society, according to a count made in 1908, possesses about 99,000 volumes. It is one of the great libraries of the country for students of American history and allied subjects, ranking in the field of American-printed books with the Lenox Library, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Library of Congress.

It is in the productions of the early American press that the library is especially strong. The attempt is made to collect *everything* printed in America before 1820, this date having been chosen because it includes the establishment of printing-presses in most of the older towns, because it covers the interesting Jef-



fersonian period, the War of 1812 and the ensuing period of national reorganization, and partly because it is to be the final date of Evans's great "American Bibliography," already published through the year 1778. An estimate based on bibliographies and book-lists already issued, seems to show that the total output of the United States press to the year 1820 would number 75,000 titles, with perhaps 40,000 titles published before 1800. The library probably has over one-third of these titles at the present time, and a systematic attempt to acquire some portion of what we lack would have decided results. The value of such a collection for the student of early American history, literature, law, medicine, theology, education, science, and all other subjects cannot be overestimated.

Of the "incunabula" of American printing, the library has over 200 examples. On the fly leaf of the desk copy of the 1837 Catalogue appears this note in Dr. Haven's handwriting: "In looking over the Catalogue, Mr. Brinley found 186 works printed in this Country before 1700. He thinks there were not more than 300 printed, and this library contains a far larger proportion than any other. Mr. Brinley has made this matter a subject of investigation." As our collection has since increased, so has the Brinley estimate. The list published by Dr. Haven, Jr., in 1874 numbers over 600 titles of the 17th century, and Evans in his Bibliography lists 967 imprints. Among the more interesting titles in our collection are both editions of Eliot's "Indian Bible," several early Indian tracts, the "Bay Psalm Book" of 1640, the early editions of the Cambridge Platform, and Secretary Rawson's copy of the Massachusetts Laws of 1660.

The foundation of this collection of early imprints was the library of the Mathers, obtained partly from Hannah Mather Crocker and partly from a purchase made by Isaiah Thomas. Under date of November 11, 1814, Thomas records in his diary: "Purchased the remains of the old library of the Mathers, which had belonged to Drs. Increase and Samuel Mather. This is unquestionably the oldest in New England." The early New England publications of the Mather family number about 600 titles, and of this number the Society possesses approximately 400. This showing is approached only by the Lenox Library, the John Carter

Brown Library, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Two other early libraries which made notable additions to our collections were those owned by Thomas Wallcut and by Rev. William Bentley.

Other subjects in which the library is especially strong are early law including text-books, early American Bibles, hymn books and psalm books, Indian linguistics, and the early publications of the United States government. The collection of school books is probably the largest in the country and has been the object of much study and research. American almanacs are very strongly represented, numbering perhaps 4000 issues before the year 1850, and showing a majority of those published in the 17th century.

In common with other large libraries of Americana, the Society has a fair collection of genealogy — about 2000 family histories — and a very large collection of local history, in which, however, the West is inadequately represented.

A recently established and rapidly growing department is that devoted to Spanish-Americana. By means of a large fund established by Isaac and Edward L. Davis, and through the personal efforts of Stephen Salisbury, Jr., the works on Mexico, Central and South America are becoming an important feature of the library. At present the collection is strongest in antiquities of Central America, Mexican Indian dialects, early Mexican imprints, and bibliography. The Society would have the field of Americana well covered if it possessed funds which allowed it to improve its Canadiana and its works on Arctic discovery.

There are few libraries in America so well provided with the ephemeral in literature. So far as concerns pamphlets, there has always been a general disposition to treat them in the same way as books, to bind each separately and place it in its appropriate classification. This theory it has so far been impossible to carry out, but it is hoped that within a few years the library will be able to fulfill the idea well expressed by Justin Winsor in his Harvard Library Report for 1878: — "There are no considerations except economy for treating pamphlets other than books; and the users of a library are never thoroughly equipped for investigation so long as any distinction is made between them."

The broadside collection is a large one. Among the items



worthy of especial mention are the 1690 Proclamation by the Governor and Council of Massachusetts regarding the first newspaper "Publick Occurrences," a considerable number of Fast and Thanksgiving Proclamations, and three volumes of songs and ballads of the War of 1812. Maps, views, and portraits, especially the rare early specimens, are represented in large number, and there is an excellent collection of colonial and continental paper currency. These latter collections, however, need reclassifying and arranging to admit of easy examination.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

It is for its collection of newspapers that the library of the American Antiquarian Society is undoubtedly most frequently consulted. The first permanent newspaper published in this country was the Boston News Letter, established in 1704. From this date up to 1800 the library possesses nearly 600 bound volumes of papers. As long ago as the year 1839 there were 1251 volumes of newspapers in the library, and to-day the number totals about 7000.

The founder of the Society, Isaiah Thomas, had exceptional opportunities to acquire colonial newspapers. As editor of the Massachusetts Spy, one of the important newspapers of the country, he exchanged with the publishers of other newspapers. In the preparation of his work on the History of Printing in America, published in 1810, largely a history of the newspaper press, he took pains to obtain files or specimen issues of all the newspapers in the country. The collection made by him at that time and turned over to the library of the Society has not been since equaled. In western papers it is almost as well represented as in those of the East. Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites, in the bibliography of early western newspapers appended to his monograph on the "Ohio Valley Press before the War of 1812-15," notes that of the early press of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, and western Pennsylvania, the American Antiquarian Society is represented by sixty different newspapers, while the Ebeling collection at Harvard University shows files of thirty-nine papers, the Library of Congress twenty-five, and the Wisconsin Historical Society

twelve. Newspapers, like broadsides, unless preserved by collectors at the time of issue, are exceedingly difficult to acquire.

Among the longer of the early files are those of the New Hampshire Gazette, the Boston News Letter, the Boston Gazette, the Massachusetts Spy, the Newport Mercury, the Providence Gazette, the Connecticut Courant, the New York Weekly Journal, the New Jersey Gazette, the American Weekly Mercury, the Pennsylvania Gazette, and the Maryland Journal. The period in which the collection is most weak is that of 1830-1850, and steps are now being taken to remedy that defect.

The plan of collecting comprehends the acquiring of files of *all* American newspapers through the period of the Civil War. Since 1870 only the papers of a few of the leading cities are preserved and bound. In this way about two dozen journals, representing various sections of the country, will be kept for the use of future students and to maintain the national character of this great collection.

#### MANUSCRIPTS.\*

The manuscript department of a historical library is one of its most important divisions. Evidence is not lacking that Isaiah Thomas, the father of the American Antiquarian Society, prized highly the collection of manuscripts which he had gathered, and a like interest is shown by Librarian Baldwin in his stewardship and by all officials and well wishers of the Society to-day. The difference in the size and character of the collection from that of a century ago is a welcome illustration of the Society's growth. From a few groups of manuscripts chiefly of a local or personal character there has succeeded a collection of over 35,000 pieces largely national in its scope.

Among the manuscripts of the Society mention will be first made of the group centering about its founder, Isaiah Thomas. Here are interleaved almanacs from 1774 to 1828 containing the diary of Thomas from 1805 and a volume of some 200 letters to Thomas. Additional correspondence is scattered through other groups of manuscripts, and all these papers are exclusive of his official files of letters as first President of the Society. Thomas was a national

\* Prepared by Charles Henry Lincoln, in charge of manuscripts.

figure of his time. In the correspondence of few editors of to-day is there so large a proportion filled with notes regarding matters of national concern.

The earliest period in the Society's archives is well represented by the diary of John Hull, Mint-master of Massachusetts in 1652, the notebook of Thomas Lechford of Boston, 1638-1641, and most important of all, the manuscripts of the Mather family. This voluminous collection comprises several hundred manuscripts and includes letters, diaries, sermons, and essays. For Richard Mather there are several important papers on church government from 1635 to 1657 and a large number of manuscript sermons. For Increase Mather there are his diaries for 1659, 1664-1667, 1680-1684, 1688-1689, 1693-1699, 1702, 1704, 1705, 1717, and 1721, written closely in interleaved almanacs, his autobiography written for his children, and a few miscellaneous essays. Cotton Mather is represented by diaries for the years 1692, 1696, 1699, 1703, 1709, 1711, 1713, and 1717, nearly three hundred letters, and many interesting treatises on religion, theology, medicine, and morals. Included also in the collection are a few manuscripts of less noted members of the Mather family. Within the following year it is probable that a large portion of the material that relates to Cotton and Increase Mather will be published.

Of no less importance are the Curwen manuscripts. Aside from several volumes of notes and accounts this collection contains over 1100 individual manuscripts grouped about the Corwin or Curwen family from 1640 to 1775. Among other than Curwen autographs in this group are many of Samuel Sewall, Robert Hale, Sir William Pepperrell, Governor William Shirley, and other leaders in the French War.

Closely allied to the latter portion of this collection are the several groups of manuscripts in the Society's archives dealing with the long struggle between England and France for the possession of the American continent. Prominent among these are numerous miscellaneous muster rolls and papers from 1726 to 1731, Robert Hale's journal of his voyage to Nova Scotia in the latter year, and, most important for the period of the minor wars, Sir William Pepperrell's Journal of his Expedition against Louisbourg in 1745. For this attack several of the colonies furnished troops and many



colonial officers participated in the expedition. This 40-page journal from March to August gives interesting details of the most important campaign of King George's war, a campaign regarding which there is constant inquiry.

For the closing years of the conflict with the French this library has abundant material for the investigator. The manuscripts of Sir William Johnson and of Col. John Bradstreet contain a store of information, and there are eleven orderly books or diaries for the same period. Most important among the latter are such volumes as the diary kept at Crown Point from May to November, 1759, and the orderly book of William Henshaw for the expedition against Fort Edward during the same year. Numerous miscellaneous manuscripts supplement these three valuable groups of papers. Of especial importance among these are the list of officers killed, wounded, or injured at the time of Sir Edward Braddock's defeat at Fort Duquesne, and letters of Robert Orme and Admiral Augustus Keppel descriptive of the same engagement.

The library's collection of Revolutionary War material is extensive. It includes a group of nearly 40 orderly books, letter books, and similar material, six volumes of miscellaneous manuscripts, and many letters of noted civil and military leaders in that war. Chief among the orderly books are the Henshaw series covering the earlier campaigns about Boston and New York, the Saratoga series for the campaign of the northern army under Generals Schuyler and Gates, June–November, 1777, and the series extending over the occupancy of Newburgh by the main army, 1782–1783. Among the miscellaneous manuscripts are numerous military papers of Brig. Gen. John Nixon and Maj. Gen. William Heath, the correspondence of Stephen Kemble, John Beatty, and Egbert Benson as to British and Loyalist prisoners, and various petitions from single regiments or groups of officers to their respective states or to the Continental Congress. Perhaps as interesting a manuscript as any in the collection is the reply of the garrison at West Point to Washington's farewell address, Nov. 10, 1783. Important autographs of leaders in Congress or on the field give additional value to this group of papers. Of this character are letters of Adams, Hancock, Jefferson, and Sherman in Congress, Livingston, Rodney, and Trumbull at state capitols, and Washing-

ton, Greene, Schuyler, and Lord Stirling in the field. Gates, Conway, Charles Lee, and Arnold represent another class of military men, while various British orderly books, autographs of Burgoyne, Carleton, and others unfold the history of the English side of the war. The many manuscripts throwing light on the outbreak of the war are well illustrated by the Salem Non-importation Agreement of 1768, containing 83 signatures, and numerous papers regarding the Society of the Cincinnati picture one consequence of the war considered at the time as the birth of an aristocracy.

The manuscripts in the Society's library best illustrating the movement toward national unity date from 1783 to 1820. For this period its collections are especially strong. The suppression of internal dissent in New England is covered by the papers relating to Shays' rebellion, and the growing life in that section is well shown in the Bentley manuscripts, 1783-1819. This collection comprises 38 bound volumes of accounts and notebooks, including a 13-volume diary, and over 1500 miscellaneous letters. Among these manuscripts are numerous letters from the heads of important communities, societies, and institutions. Of these there may be cited manuscripts from heads of various departments of the national government, from leaders in cities and states of New England, and from educational institutions such as Harvard University. Notable autographs are those of Josiah Bartlett, Joseph Story, Josiah Quincy, Joseph Willard, James Winthrop, and Edward Everett.

The growth of American independence upon the sea is hinted at in letters from William Bainbridge, various members of the Crowninshield family, and Robert Rantoul, found in the Bentley collection, but prominent for this phase of national growth are other manuscripts in the library. Here is a letter book of Isaac Hull touching his work for America in freeing her from the payment of tribute to the Barbary States, as well as a series of autograph copies of letters of Samuel Barron for the same period. Other noteworthy papers of the time are quarter books of the *Constitution* and *Essex* giving lists of the crews of those vessels with their stations on board in case of action with the enemy. Numerous



manuscripts scattered through other groups of material aid in illustrating the growth of an American navy, that branch of military activity which best represents the ideal of a united nation.

Turning from the east to the west the Society has its valuable collection of Craigie papers. In this six-volume collection are manuscripts descriptive of the settlement of the Ohio valley and the rise and fortunes of the Scioto Company organized for that purpose. Important manuscripts give Washington's ideas for a canal or road to the Ohio, news from settlements in Kentucky, and negotiations with Robert Morris for the acquisition of the Genesee lands in western New York. A large portion of these papers discuss the question of European immigration into the western territory, the best location for the settlement of the people received, and the necessity that they understand American ideas and so prove a source of strength and not of weakness to their new country.

Another choice group of manuscripts in the archives of this Society is the Burr collection covering not only Burr's life but containing numerous additions made by Mrs. John Davis from whom this Society acquired these papers. Here are found letters of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Sherman, and Morris of the earlier statesmen of the nation, and of Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Dallas, Cass, and Everett of a later time. Mention may here be made also of the biographical collection prepared by Samuel Jennison and consisting of short sketches of men prominent during this period of United States history.

For the history of America from 1815 to 1850 the Society has the Lincoln, Merrick, and John Davis collections. The Lincoln papers are in two parts. In the first is the correspondence of the two Levi Lincolns, father and son, national and state officials, with four volumes of correspondence of Enoch Lincoln, Governor of Maine. In the second part are the manuscripts of William Lincoln, the historian, consisting of several thousand letters more local in character. The whole collection therefore touches local, state, and national affairs, showing the changes in all three fields.

The Merrick manuscripts throw much light on the Anti-Masonic Movement of 1830, and closely following is the John Davis collec-

tion. This consists of the correspondence of Davis, notes and plans of political campaigns, outlines of speeches, a few legal arguments and numerous letters paying tribute to the character of the man. Here are many autograph letters from the leaders of the Whigs — Choate, Clay, Everett, Seward, Winthrop, and Webster, relating mainly to national affairs, 1830-1852. Among the important single documents is a fifteen page discussion by Davis of the rise of the slavery problem and "the Influence of Slavery upon Free Labor."

Among the latest accessions is the Salisbury collection consisting in large part of the books and correspondence of the business house of Samuel and Stephen Salisbury of Boston and Worcester. These manuscripts are especially valuable because of the light thrown upon economic conditions and trade relations in New England during the 18th and 19th centuries. Numbering some 10,000 letters and documents the collection is destined to prove of usefulness to those who are studying the social and business life of the New England of a century ago.

Such are the collections of manuscripts in the American Antiquarian Society. All have not been mentioned, but the leading characteristics of the whole have been summarized. It remains only to add that the Society recognizes its privilege of custody. Realizing that no library has any right to the possession of valuable manuscripts unless it shall make provision for the safeguarding as well as the use of these priceless records, the Society is preparing in its new home a department with an equipment second to none for the preservation of manuscripts intrusted to its care.

During the past two and one half years it has made long strides toward the making of its collections available for the use of historical students. It has arranged its 35,000 manuscripts in groups centering about a person, a subject or a period of time. It has gone further. There is in progress a thorough card catalogue or calendar of the individual manuscripts in its keeping. Toward the accomplishment of this purpose eleven groups of manuscripts have been covered, over 4000 individual card entries have been made, and in the case of several groups whose respective manuscripts have been calendared the entire collection has been indexed and the completed work published. In addition to this,

some of the more noteworthy of the manuscripts in the Society's archives have been published in full.

In these various ways the Antiquarian Society has opened its stores to the public. The results can but mark a distinct addition to the resources upon which historians are able to rely. Whether or not this Society shall have a larger field of usefulness rests with the owners of manuscripts too important to be kept under private stewardship. It is for the custodians of these records to recognize and make use of the facilities which the American Antiquarian Society has provided for the safeguarding and classification of material intrusted to its care. Well wishers of the Society can in addition provide it with means for carrying on the work of indexing and publishing its manuscript treasures, thus providing that measure of use most helpful to the historians and biographers of the nation and reflecting most credit upon the custodians of the sources of American history.

#### MUSEUM.

In the early days of the Society one of the prominent features of its work was the collecting of anthropological specimens, objects of aboriginal handiwork, and relics of colonial life. The result was a large collection of such objects, unarranged and worthless for comprehensive study. The establishing of the Smithsonian Institution, the Peabody Museum at Cambridge, and such institutions rendered the work of this Society in those directions largely superfluous. In view of their thoroughly scientific and carefully arranged exhibits, the Society could only rejoice that that portion of its labors was being so well performed by bodies whose facilities for collecting were beyond all comparison superior. The founding of a local historical institution, too, made a much more suitable depository for local relics. Accordingly by vote of the Society a large number of our ethnological specimens were transferred to the Peabody Museum, while the local relics were turned over to The Worcester Society of Antiquity. A considerable number of early specimens, however, were retained because of their importance, and the most important of the historical relics committed to us in the past were saved out for exhibition purposes. Among the latter are the Isaiah Thomas printing-press, owned for many years



by the founder of the Society. An interesting relic is one of the leaden plates buried by De Céleron in 1759 to assert the claims of French jurisdiction in the New World. This plate was unearthed at the Muskingum River in Ohio and was presented to the Society in 1827 by Gov. DeWitt Clinton. Other valued objects are Gov. John Winthrop's "stone pott tipped and covered with a silver Lydd"; Fitz-John Winthrop's sword — a basket-hilted blade made by Andrea Ferrara; the Richard Mather chair; the "Alabama Stone," a presumed relic of De Soto's expedition of 1540, with the roughly chiseled words "Hispan et Ind. Rey"; and a box of the original tea picked up on Dorchester Neck by Rev. Thaddeus M. Harris the morning after the cargoes were destroyed and by him in later life presented to the Society. In the new building all these relics will be shown in exhibition cases in a room especially given to the purpose.

There are a number of highly valuable pieces of furniture in the building preserved because of their historic associations and partly because of their usefulness. Among them should be mentioned the John Hancock clock — one of the tallest and finest specimens existing — also his double-chair and his business desk, the Gov. Leverett secretary, the Gov. Belcher secretary, and the Gov. Bowdoin secretary. These fine pieces of colonial furniture will serve in a highly appropriate manner to ornament the new building.

#### PORTRAITS

The Society possesses several portraits which have been recently undergoing a thorough cleaning and repairing. Among them are the four Mathers — Richard, Increase, Cotton, and Samuel — Gov. John Endicott, Gov. John Winthrop, Gov. John Leverett, Rev. John Higginson, and Alexander Humboldt. Of the presidents of the Society there are portraits of Isaiah Thomas by Greenwood, Thomas L. Winthrop by Sully, John Davis by Billings, Stephen Salisbury, Sr., by Huntington, and Stephen Salisbury, Jr., by Vinton. The portraits lacking of past presidents are those of Edward Everett, George Frisbie Hoar, and Edward Everett Hale. There are two excellent portraits of former librarians of the Society — Christopher Columbus Baldwin by Harding, and Samuel Foster Haven by Custer.

## PUBLICATIONS.

The publications of the Society comprise two series — the *Transactions* and the *Proceedings*.

The *Transactions*, more properly the *Transactions and Collections*, were established in 1820. For many years they were occasionally known by the sub-title of "Archæologia Americana," which misnomer, however, has recently been dropped. The first volume is chiefly given over to Caleb Atwater's "Description of the Antiquities of Ohio and other Western States," valuable to-day for the accuracy of its text and plans. The volume also includes a reprint of Hennepin's "Discovery of the Mississippi," Johnston's "Indian Tribes of Ohio," with vocabularies, Sheldon's "Account of the Caribs of the Antilles," and other antiquarian papers.

Volume 2 of the *Transactions*, 1836, contains Gallatin's "Indian Tribes of North America," a comprehensive work and especially useful for its vocabularies, and Daniel Gookin's "Historical Account of the Christian Indians of New England." It is the rarest volume of the series, since part of the edition was destroyed at the Stationers' Hall fire in Boston.

Volume 3, published in 1857, prints the Records of the Company of Massachusetts Bay from 1628 to 1630, and the Diaries of John Hull, with their interesting portrayal of New England life from 1658 to 1682.

Volume 4, 1860, contains "Original Documents illustrating the history of the Colony of Jamestown," and the "Narration of a Voyage to Spitzbergen in 1613," and reprints Wingfield's "Discourse of Virginia," and Josselyn's "New England's Rarities Discovered."

Volumes 5 and 6, published in 1874, form the second edition of Thomas's "History of Printing in America." This classic of American bibliography is here increased in value by the insertion of the author's posthumous "corrections and additions," by frequent notes and appendices, and by Haven's Catalogue of American publications, 1639-1775.

Volume 7, published in 1885, prints the Note-Book of Thomas Lechford, 1638-1641. Containing the daily entries made by a



professional lawyer who was brought into contact with people of all classes, it throws much light on the social customs and political life of early New England and forms one of the most valued sources for the history of the first generation in Massachusetts.

Volume 8, issued in 1901, publishes the Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, 1829-1835, recording, as says the prefatory note, "a picture of life in the cultivated society of a shire town in Massachusetts three-quarters of a century ago, and the jottings of an earnest genealogist and antiquarian."

Volumes 9 and 10, issued in 1909, publish the Diary of Isaiah Thomas, 1805-1828. The work forms a notable companion to the previous volume, and being the journal of a man of national reputation and diverse interests, it assumes more than local value.

Volume 11, published in 1909, is entitled "Manuscript Records of the French and Indian War," and contains a calendar of the Sir William Johnson manuscripts, 1755-1774, the text in full of certain Johnson letters of 1766-1769; a calendar of the Col. John Bradstreet manuscripts, 1755-1773; a calendar of a series of miscellaneous letters on the war, 1754-1767; and the Orderly Book and Journal of Lieut. William Henshaw, 1759. This volume gives some suggestion of the wealth of manuscripts in the possession of the Society.

Volume 12, in press, will publish the Royal Proclamations concerning America, 1606-1783, printed from the originals in various archive repositories in England.

The *Proceedings* of the Society have been published regularly since October, 1849. Before that date there were eleven pamphlets issued in the form of Presidential addresses, Reports on the Condition of the Society or By-Laws, and there were also the *Proceedings* for May and October, 1839, and May and October, 1843. Beginning with October, 1849, there has been an issue for each semi-annual meeting of the Society, including the business transactions and the papers read at the meetings. Beginning with October, 1880, a "new series" of *Proceedings* has been published in which the issues for three successive meetings — namely, a year and a half — make up a volume for binding. The issue for April, 1909, completes Volume XIX of this series.

In this long series of *Proceedings* are to be found many papers and monographs of much importance. A selection of a few titles will show the scope of the papers:

Notes on the Laws of New Hampshire, by Albert H. Hoyt.

Burgoyne's Surrender, by Chas. Deane.

Bibliography of Indian dialects, by J. H. Trumbull.

Many papers on Mexican dialects, antiquities, and archæology.

Bibliography of Yucatan and Central America, by A. F. Bandelier.

The Office of Tithingman, by Herbert B. Adams.

History of Witchcraft in Massachusetts, by George H. Moore.

Archæological research in Yucatan, by Edward H. Thompson.

Voluntary System in the Maintenance of Ministers, by Samuel S. Green.

Estimates of Population in the American Colonies, by Franklin B. Dexter.

Illustrated Americana, 1493-1624, and of the Revolution, by James F. Hunnewell.

The Navigation Laws, by Edward Channing.

Literature of Witchcraft in New England, by Justin Winsor.

Dr. Saugrain's Journal, Ohio River, 1788, by Eugene F. Bliss.

Dress and Ornaments of American Indians, by Lucien Carr.

Early American Broad sides, by Nathaniel Paine.

Early New England Catechisms, by Wilberforce Eames.

The Andros Records, prepared by Robert N. Toppan.

The Roger Sherman Almanacs, by Victor H. Paltsits.

The Ohio Valley Press before 1812, by Reuben G. Thwaites.

Early Spanish Cartography of the New World, by Edward L. Stevenson.

In most cases, papers read before the Society have been reprinted in "separate" form. The number of copies in the edition has varied, but beginning with 1909 the number of reprints will be thirty for presentation to the author, and thirty for the use of the Society.

There have been but few minor publications issued by the Society outside of the *Proceedings* proper. A complete bibliography may be found in A. P. C. Griffin's Bibliography of Ameri-

can Historical Societies, printed in the American Historical Association Report for 1905, volume 2. A "Partial Index to the Proceedings, 1812-1880," by Stephen Salisbury, was printed in 1883, and a summary of the "Contents of the Proceedings 1880-1903," compiled by Nathaniel Paine, was printed in 1905. Mention should also be made of the printed "Catalogue of Books in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society," published in 1837.

#### PRICE-LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

Transactions, vol. 1.....	\$ 2.50
Transactions, vol. 2 (out of print).....	12.00
Transactions, vol. 3.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 4.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 5.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 6.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 7.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 8.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 9.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 10.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 11.....	2.50
Transactions, vol. 12 (in press).....	2.50

NOTE. With the intention of giving a larger circulation to its publications, the Society has decided to place only a nominal price on its volumes and has accordingly issued the above revised price-list. A full set of the Transactions will be sold for \$35.00, or, excluding volume 2, which will probably be reprinted, for \$25.00.

Proceedings, 1856-1880 (semi-annual) .....	each \$ .50
Proceedings, n. s. 1880-1909 (semi-annual)...	each 1.00

NOTE. The Proceedings of 1839, 1843, and 1849-1855 can be supplied only in part, since most of them are out of print. The new series of Proceedings, beginning with 1880, includes three issues in a volume. Vol. XIX of this series is completed by the issue for April, 1909. The price per volume (three numbers) is \$2.50; in bound form, \$3.00.



## Miscellaneous Publications.

Catalogue of the Library, 1837.....	\$1.00
Address by Wm. Paine, 1815.....	.50
Address by Wm. Bentley, 1816.....	.50
Address by Isaac Goodwin, 1820.....	.50
Report at annual meeting of 1821.....	.50
Separates, reprints from Proceedings.....	.50 to 1.00

NOTE. Other miscellaneous publications, as listed in Griffin's Bibliography, can occasionally be supplied, although the above are the only items of which there is any quantity in stock.

The Society also has for sale the following publications:

Chandler Genealogy, by George Chandler, 1883.	\$10.00
Tracts relating to the Currency of the Massachusetts Bay, 1682-1720, ed. by Andrew McFarland Davis, 1902, pp. 394.....	2.00
The Confiscation of John Chandler's Estate, by Andrew McFarland Davis, 1903, pp. 296.....	1.50

## MEMBERSHIP.

Membership in the American Antiquarian Society is purely elective. Limited to 140 members by the 1831 by-laws, which number was increased to 175 in 1907, it has always been compelled to choose carefully in its elections. Nearly all of the long line of historical scholars who have told the story of America's past have been members of the Society and gleaned many of their facts from its archives. Bancroft, Story, Sparks, Parkman, Prescott, Winsor — have been members and have taken prominent part in the meetings. Of the scientists can be named Humboldt, Schoolcraft, Gallatin, Brinton. The membership is strictly national in its scope. Although Massachusetts is largely represented and the city of Worcester provides a disproportionate number of members in order to administer the Society's affairs, yet nearly one-third of the membership lies outside of New England.

The dues for members were originally two dollars annually, but this was amended in 1814 so as to apply only to members

living in the State and in 1819 was discarded entirely. In 1878 Society voted to assess annual dues of five dollars on all New England members and to fix upon the sum of five dollars as an admission fee to be required from all new members. This is the provision in force according to the present by-laws. The payment of fifty dollars relieves a New England member of all annual dues.

### MEETINGS.

The by-laws provide that the annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Worcester on the third Wednesday in October, and that the semi-annual meeting shall be held in Boston on the third Wednesday in April.

The 1815 by-laws provided for two meetings of the Society — one in Boston on October 23, “the day on which Columbus first discovered America,” and the other in Worcester on the last Thursday in June. The 1831 by-laws required that the annual meeting of October 23 should be held in Worcester and that the Boston meeting should be on the last Wednesday in May, which day had for many years previous to the revision of the Massachusetts constitution been appointed for the organization of the government of the Commonwealth. In 1850, however, the date of the meeting was changed to the last Wednesday in April. In 1855 the day of the annual meeting in Worcester was changed from October 23 to October 21, which latter date it was decided more nearly approximated the anniversary of the discovery of America. In 1906 the present by-laws were adopted providing for the annual meeting in Worcester on the third Wednesday in October and for the semi-annual meeting in Boston on the third Wednesday in April.

The Boston meetings of the Society were held at the Exchange Coffee House until 1835, at the Tremont House from 1836 to 1847, at the hall of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences from 1848 to 1899, and at the building of the Massachusetts Historical Society from 1900 since. The Worcester meetings, except for the early meetings in the “mansion house” of the founder, have always been held in the library building of the Society.



## NEW BUILDING.

With the increase of its funds through the bequest from Stephen Salisbury, the Society was able in 1908 to take positive steps regarding the erection of a new building. Such a move had been long contemplated. The library had been steadily increasing until it was found necessary to rent quarters in a nearby building to accommodate the overflow. The county commissioners moreover, had stated that the site was absolutely necessary in the near future for the proposed extension to the court-house. Acting under the advice of a sub-committee, therefore, the Society purchased a large lot, formerly part of the Salisbury estate, bounded by Park avenue, Salisbury street and Regent street. With an area of sixty thousand square feet, bounded by streets on three sides and in the midst of an attractive residential neighborhood, the site has met with general approval.

A building committee, consisting of the President of the Society, Dr. Edmund A. Engler and Dr. Samuel B. Woodward, was appointed and in 1908 secured as architects Messrs. Winslow, Bigelow and Wadsworth and R. Clipston Sturgis of Boston. The building planned is a two-story structure of brick, with marble trimmings and a marble dome. The portico, with its marble columns, is modelled after the entrance of the first structure of the Society built in 1820. The first floor includes a large reading and meeting-room, work-rooms and book alcoves. On the second floor are the exhibition rooms, manuscript-room, and map and print-room. In the rear is a five-tier stack with a capacity for 160,000 volumes of books and 15,000 volumes of newspapers. The building has a total capacity of about 250,000 volumes, and the lot is sufficiently large to allow the erection of additional book-stacks.

The corner stone of the new library was laid on October 20, 1909, with an historical address by Charles Francis Adams and a description of the building by President Lincoln. It will be ready for occupancy in October, 1910.

## FUNDS.

The funds of the Society in October, 1909, amounted to \$451,000, of which the funds for books amounted to about \$45,000, for publishing to \$32,000 and for bookbinding to \$7,500. Of the residue about \$120,000, in addition to the amount to be derived from the sale of the present property to the county court commissioners, must be set aside for the new building. The Society, therefore, although it has of late been provided with sufficient income, as soon as it has met the cost of what has been an imperative call for a larger and safer building, must look to the generosity of its members to enable it to continue the good record of the past two years.

A fund is to be raised to replace the amount expended for the new building. The loss of \$6,000 a year from our present income, caused by converting productive stocks into non-productive plant, would mean the abandonment of many of our intended plans. It would mean that our book purchases must be curtailed, that the admirable work now being done in cataloguing the manuscripts would be given up, and that we could not enter into competition with other large libraries in purchasing newspapers to complete our files.

At the annual meeting in October 1909, the Society voted to appoint a committee to solicit a Centennial Fund of one hundred thousand dollars for the general purposes of the Society, and special funds, totalling an additional one hundred thousand dollars, for the collecting and preserving of newspapers, for the acquiring and cataloging of manuscripts, for the acquiring of local histories and genealogies, and for the issuing of publications. President Lincoln said in his annual address, "If such funds are raised the members will be astounded to find how soon we can make this the great historical library of the country for matters pertaining to the history of the Western Hemisphere. To-day, poor in money as we have been, our library is so rich in material that no historical writer can afford to neglect it. All we wish is the means to complete what others have so well begun."

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OCTOBER 20, 1909.

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